

Get On Board for Fitness... Take the Bus

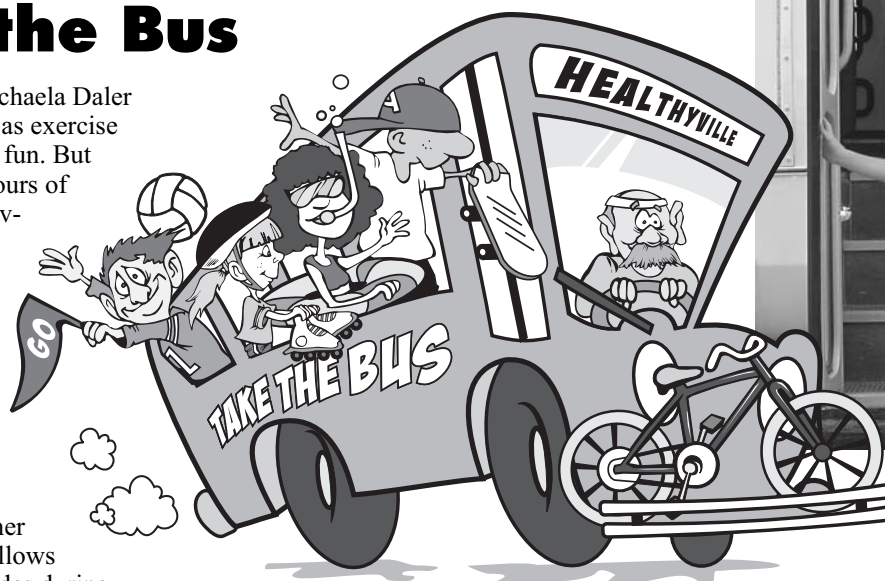
Eight-year-old Michaela Daler doesn't think of it as exercise – it's just plain ol' fun. But she gets several hours of daily physical activity, and the Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN) helps make it happen.

Michaela, who lives in Charlotte, takes advantage of EATRAN's Summer Fun Pass, which allows youth unlimited rides during the summer for just one price.

EATRAN teamed up with several local businesses – many of which offer fitness opportunities – to provide incentives for those who use the pass. For example, the Westside YMCA and The Summit offer free skate rental to students who arrive using the Summer Fun Pass, and discounts are available at golf courses, a bowling alley, riding stable, sports center and other sites.

Michaela rides the bus each morning to Bennett Park, where she studies nature, plays on the playground, and participates in physical activities, such as kickball. In the afternoon, she heads to Galewood Elementary School for a summer recreation program, where she chases frogs, plays games like freeze tag and hockey, competes in jump-rope contests, and plays on the playground. During the school year, she hops on EATRAN to get to a karate class.

Riding the bus can be part of an active lifestyle. It can be in the form of taking a trip to a destination to participate in a



Michaela Daler rides an Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN) bus to a summer recreation program in Charlotte. The eight-year-old takes the bus daily to various activities and classes.

COURTESY OF J. GEISSLER

physical activity, as Michaela does, or just walking a few blocks to and from a bus stop.

Just 30 minutes of walking per day – which can be broken up into 10-minute intervals – will burn 100 calories. Do this five times a week, and, over the course of a year, you'll have walked off about seven-and-a-half pounds.

Several public transit systems have added bicycle racks to their buses, providing yet another fitness opportunity.

Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA), which operates in Leelanau and Grand Traverse counties, has bike racks on 31 of its 60 vehicles.

Bob Otwell, executive director of Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails, sees the bus system as an extension of the recreational trails. He says the bike racks promote more physical activity because people in outlying

Exercising Healthy Choices

Make public transit help you achieve your fitness goals!

Here's how:

- Walk to and from a bus stop. For an extra workout, get on or off a stop earlier than usual.
- If you have curb-to-curb service, have the bus pick you up or drop you off a few blocks from your home or destination.
- Take advantage of bike racks and conveniently transport your bicycle to a great place to ride.
- Take the bus to destinations where you can participate in healthy activities: the gym, a golf course, bowling alley, park, hiking trail, swimming pool, or sports center.

Gloria J. Jeff



Gloria J. Jeff

My Challenge to You

What can you do to mentor your colleagues, or young people, toward a career of service in transportation?

Even as a girl growing up in Detroit, I believed there was not anything a young woman could not accomplish.

It had been my dream to be an astronaut since Alan Shepherd roared into space. I thought that in order to achieve this I would have to design a rocket ship, which only I could fly, since no one in the space program looked like me: African American or female. Although I was not able to become an astronaut, I was able to pursue a career in civil engineering – a career I chose because it gave me the most options. I could be involved in changing people's lives in a tangible way every day.

The most important message for young people, and especially for young women, is that transportation offers incredible career opportunities. I can't think of a more relevant, rewarding career.

Today, about one-fifth of all new engineers are female – a number that has risen steadily since 1965. At MDOT, 15 top administrative posts currently are held by women. In addition, two of the six members of the State Transportation Commission are women, and one of them is vice chair.

I've personally tried to make a difference. Through the years, I have mentored several young women who wanted to pursue transportation careers. I chair a Transportation Research Board committee on women's transportation issues that is currently organizing its Third Conference on Women's Transportation Issue to be held this November in Chicago. And I serve on the advisory board for WTS (Women's Transportation Seminar), a national organization dedicated to the professional advancement of women in transportation.

Challenges have been the stepping stones of my career. I have had individuals question whether I was an engineer, much less a female African-American engineer. I no longer take responsibility for the negative feelings of others. Instead, I choose to focus on positive learning experiences. This has made me a better engineer, leader and person.

My challenge to you is this: What can *you* do to mentor your colleagues, or young people, toward a career of service in transportation?

(Ed note: The above is an excerpt from a profile of Director Jeff that was written in celebration of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26.) 🐦

Leadership Conference

March 15, 2005

2005 Leadership Conference Planning Team

Sylvia Alexander, Finance, *Chair*
Paul Ajegba, University Region
Dawn Garner, Superior Region
Katrina Kaufman, Multi-Modal Bureau
Roger Safford, Grand Region

Paul Steinman, University Region
Cheryl Strayhorn, Executive
Amber Thelen, Economic Development
Dave Weber, Construction & Technology
Paige Williams, Metro Region

Flint - Ft Wayne
Gd Rapids
EXIT 3/4 M

Take the Bus

Director's Column
My Challenge to You

Work Zone Safety

Attitude Is Everything

A High Five to WiFi!

Good News

OHR Update

MDOT Family Tree

2004 Mackinac Bridge Walk

State Transportation Commission

Ted B. Wahby, Chair
Betty Jean Awrey, Vice Chair
Linda Miller Atkinson
Robert G. Bender
Vincent Brennan
John W. Garside

Safe Work Zones = Everyone's Responsibility

With more than 400 active work zones on highways and local city streets this season, the need for safe practices – for workers and motorists alike – is critical.

“Safe work zones are our top priority and *everyone's* responsibility,” said Chief Operations Engineer Larry Tibbits. In Michigan, safety is promoted from the top down: from the governor, who regularly promotes safety messages, to State Transportation Director Gloria Jeff, to every worker in each MDOT region and TSC, to the contractors hired on the projects.

“Motorists need to remain vigilant in work zones,” said Director Jeff. “A momentary loss of focus could cause injury to motorists or the folks working in the zones. Team MDOT will work hard so that work zones are properly marked to make them as safe as possible.” A new hotline – 866-667-0001 – has been established for motorists to call if they observe a work zone that needs improvement.

“Our work zones are important – we must do the right thing,” said Brian Zimmerman, work zone technical administrator, Bureau of Delivery. This year, Brian has trained more than 600 MDOT employees in Construction, Design, Traffic & Safety, and Maintenance. He visited all 26 TSCs to provide staff with updates and discuss best practices and new features, including updates on new work zone laws.

“We’re trying to get everyone in the loop,” he said.

To resolve safety issues in the work zone, field personnel must go directly to the contractor. During the construction season, two types of reviews are performed. The first review is immediate and initiated by the TSC staff, bringing



A workzone on I-96, designed with safety in mind.

together the proper elements, whether traffic and safety, construction or maintenance staff. The second review is a formal annual review, which selects projects for review and involves the TSC, region and Lansing staff.

“We look for everything,” said Brian. “We look for potential dangers to workers or motorists, which are immediately corrected. If there’s not imminent danger, we comment and expect changes to be made. For instance, dirty barrels, which lower visibility for motorists, would need to be washed or replaced.”

The teams who review work zones for safety think of their role as more than the three-legged stool – it’s a four-legged chair. The legs are: education, enforcement, engineering, and encouragement. This approach has made a great deal of difference in keeping Michigan work zones safe.

“Our field staff has done a very good job for us in building safe work zones and they are getting better with every project,” said Larry Tibbits. 🚧



Mike Stoltz, Grand Rapids TSC, stands in front of a solar-powered temporary traffic signal, a new feature in the work zone.

New this year!

The Construction and Technology Support Area has developed an award program to recognize MDOT construction projects that exemplify the best work zones. The Work Zone Traffic Control Quality/Safety Award Program was initiated this year to promote safe work zones, instill pride in the work effort, and emphasize the positive aspects of work zones. Either contractors or MDOT employees can nominate a 2004 project in one of four cost categories. Two independent judges will visit the nominated projects, unannounced, and review each site based on the criteria outlined on the nomination form. The two best work zones in each of the categories will receive award plaques and bragging rights.

“Our very business in life is not to get ahead of others, but to get ahead of ourselves.” – Thomas L. Monson

Attitude Is Everything

MDOT Transpo Club Picnic

Want to know how to improve your attitude? Just watch the children! Children know how to make an ordinary moment shine. Why, add a picnic – and some games – and they'll downright glow.

Unfortunately, space does not allow us to include photos of *all* the picnic events, however the following sampling will give you a glimpse at some of the goings-on that took place at the Transpo Club Picnic held on Saturday, June 26, at Eagle Park in Eagle. Approximately 350 MDOTers and their families/guests attended. Some of the events not pictured include face painting and a dart toss for the kids, a raffle, a softball tournament, card playing, picnicking, music, and so much more. If you want to see *all* the events, plan on attending next year's Transpo Club Picnic! Stay tuned to the *Monday Memo* newsletter for details about the 2005 event or visit the Transpo Club Web site at <http://mdottranspoclub.org/>.



While playing the water balloon toss, this little girl was quite startled as this water balloon broke, but it probably did not dampen her enthusiasm for continuing to play.



There's nothing quite like a sack race to get the children jumping and their spirits soaring.



Busy, busy, busy behind the scenes, Transpo Club volunteers, like Jan Seeger (left) and Ginger Moore, experienced a well-deserved attitude boost as they witnessed the happy faces they helped to create by their efforts.



The possibility of breaking this truck-shaped piñata, chock-full of candies, lights up this little girl's face (and a few others as they anticipate it raining candy).



Three little girls get down while learning the Cha-Cha Slide. Cha Cha now y'all. Five hops this time. Touch your knees. How low can you go?



Kirk Steudle's reaction to getting dunked was enough to bring about some attitude adjustments among the adult observers and children alike.

If you're still not convinced that an attitude adjustment will bring on the smiles, check out the photos of this year's Mackinac Bridge Walk on the back cover...

MDOT Tropical Day

A potluck luncheon was enjoyed by many, while some braver souls competed in contests. Visit the MDOT *Interchange* at <http://interchange/PhotoImages/> to see more Tropical Day photos.

A tropical smoothie toast to the Tropical Day Committee members for their time and dedication in making this event such a successful attitude adjuster.



Approximately 150 MDOTers, most in tropical garb, participated in the fourth annual Tropical Day in Lansing on Aug. 13. Some of them pose here for posterity.



Limbo King

Jason Firman, Traffic & Safety, demonstrates how he became the king of limbo, winning the limbo contest for the third year in a row.



Hula-hoop Queen

You're not seeing double... nor is she using two hoops. Jennifer Sarkisian, AG Negligence, hulas at what is technically referred to as super-duper speed – winning the hula-hoop contest for the second consecutive year.

Pilot Project Introduces Wireless Internet at State Parks



A High Five to WiFi!

Imagine pulling into a Michigan rest area and hopping out of the car to stretch your legs. After grabbing a cold drink out of the vending machine, you pull your laptop computer out to check your e-mail. Check e-mail? That's right. MDOT, in cooperation with other state agencies, already has debuted Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) service at the first two locations – the Holland and Grand Haven state parks. Michigan is among the first in the nation to offer WiFi Internet access on state property.

The project, called MiWiFi (pronounced My WiFi), is a cooperative effort among MDOT, the Department of Information Technology, the Department of Natural Resources, and Travel Michigan, who are partnering with SBC and Intel to bring wireless Internet access to several locations across the state throughout the next year.

Wireless Internet access (called "WiFi," short for wireless fidelity) allows you to

connect to the Internet at high speeds without the traditional need for wires. WiFi connects at speeds 50 to 100 times faster than dial-up, and you can send and receive data anywhere within an approximate 150-foot range of a base station known as a FreedomLinkSM hotspot. Many notebook computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) are equipped with built-in WiFi capability; additional hardware can be purchased for older computers if your equipment is not already WiFi compatible.

SBC Internet services will provide the high-speed Internet access through its FreedomLinkSM service, giving you limited access to travel information available at no cost, and full access to the Internet for a nominal fee.

Depending on the success of the pilot project, visitors to select state-owned properties (namely welcome centers, rest areas, campgrounds and marinas) soon will be able to access the Internet to obtain Michigan travel information, check e-mail, or utilize other Internet resources. 📶



The future is now: Wireless technology enables users to connect to the Internet on state-owned property. The Holland and Grand Haven state parks were the first sites to install the technology. Additional locations throughout Michigan – including other state parks, welcome centers, marinas, and campgrounds – will follow.



Glad to be grads! Congratulations to MDOT's latest college graduates!

Five MDOT employees recently completed college degrees with some help from MDOT's Educational Support Program, which assists by allowing up to 10 hours of administrative leave per week. Each year, the Educational Support Program is available to a maximum of 10 people who are full-time, permanent employees with a minimum of one year of satisfactory service. The degrees must be related to disciplines that are in alignment with MDOT's business plan and preference is given to those disciplines that are critically needed.

"I was very fortunate to be approved as a participant of MDOT's Educational Support Program," said Michele Klein, Planning, and mother of six. "When I was finishing my degree, I wasn't sure if I could do it – there were not enough hours in the day. I looked into ESP and found out I could get up to 10 hours of administrative leave a week to use toward my schooling. Unfortunately, my workload did not permit me to do that. But, I was able to use about 70 hours during the year to attend daytime courses. Not only was that a tremendous help, but the support of the ESP gave me more confidence to be able to complete my schooling and obtain my degree."



The Fab Five include (left to right): Darlene Mans, Multi-Modal - Passenger Transportation, associate's degree in Business Management, graduated May 2004; Michele Klein, Planning/Executive, bachelor's in Business Management/Administration, graduated June 2003; and Kathleen Popoff, Operations Contract Support, bachelor's in Business Management, graduated May 2004.

Unavailable for photo: Louana Hovorka, Financial Operations, bachelor's degree in Accounting, graduated June 2003; and Chad Teachout, Real Estate, bachelor's degree in Applied Science, Computer Information Systems (PC & Network Management), graduated June 2003.



Introducing the 2004-06 Educational Support Program participants and the degrees they are pursuing: (top row, left to

right) Greg Meinburg, Bay Region, bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering; Freida Michilizzi, Southwest Region, associate's degree in Accounting; Matthew Schultz, Williamston Garage, associate's degree in Civil Technology; (bottom row, left to right) Amanda Eversole, Financial Operations, master's degree in Business Administration; Connie Bretes, Finance and Administration, master's degree in General Business; Mary Pizzo, Real Estate, bachelor's degree, Business Management.



The beautiful new ITP facility in Grand Rapids is the first transit center in the state to be environmentally certified.

Grand Rapids intermodal terminal celebrates grand opening

When Director Jeff attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new \$23 million transit station in Grand Rapids in March 2003, the surrounding buildings were vacant and in need of attention. Since then, several buildings are now occupied and a deli has opened across the street in what once was an empty storefront. The improvements in the neighborhood all signify the revitalization of this area of Grand Rapids – and it all started with the Interurban Transit Partnership's rehabilitation of its administrative offices and continued with the opening of the new transit facility.

In 2003, ITP-The Rapid carried 5.8 million passengers, saving riders money on fuel and parking, while reducing congestion in the downtown area.

The new intermodal terminal's design features a "green roof" comprised of live plants and construction materials made with recycled products, making this facility the first environmentally certified transit center in the state. The facility will provide headquarters for public transportation buses and Greyhound.



Kurt Bancroft

Meet Kurt...

Have you met the new Office Services Unit supervisor? Kurt Bancroft joined Team MDOT in June, filling the position left vacant when MDOT veteran Doug Ferris retired. Kurt supervises the following areas in the Business & Administrative Services Division, within the Bureau of Finance & Administration: Office Services, Mail Operations, Engineering Print, and the

Secondary Complex Training Center. His office is located in the Van Wagoner Building in Lansing.

Kurt began working in the public sector as a dispatch supervisor with the DNR Law Enforcement Communication Section. Prior to this, he worked in the private sector, including 20 years in the printing industry.

"I look forward to meeting more of Team MDOT," said Kurt. "I would be happy to work with you regarding your area's or division's printing/mailling needs. I can suggest the most cost-effective methods, or alternatives in printing concepts, to achieve the quality results that are representative of MDOT." Contact Kurt at 517-335-1890 or bancroftku@michigan.gov.



MDOT turns 100 in 2005!

What a grand time to be an MDOT employee or retiree as we prepare to celebrate 100 years of transportation in Michigan. The MDOT Centennial Celebration Team is working on grand plans for next year and they plan to involve each and every employee.

Here is a brief list of activities slated for 2005:

- January..... Kickoff event at MDOT offices
- May 14 Transportation Day at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing (for employees and the public)
- July..... Birthday celebrations across the state with regions participating in community parades or events
- September Special celebrations during the Mackinac Bridge Walk on Labor Day
- November..... The Finale

Many other activities are planned, including the creation of a children's book, a special edition of the State Transportation Map, and ideas regarding how to use your school leave, plus a special edition of *Michigan History* magazine. Stay tuned for more details in a future issue of *MDOT Today*.

Michigan Department of Transportation



The MDOT Centennial logo was selected by voters who chose this design in a contest on the *Interchange*. Nearly 1,100 employees voted. Kris Hart, Graphics, created the winning design.

Freeway Courtesy Patrol celebrates 10 years of service in 2004

Motorists who have had a flat tire or breakdown on a busy freeway in Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne counties know how dangerous this situation can be as traffic roars by, sometimes just inches away.

In 2003, the MDOT Freeway Courtesy Patrol rode to the rescue of stranded motorists nearly 27,000 times. Thirty-two drivers make the rounds of Detroit-area freeways in vans and tow trucks on weekdays. The role of the courtesy patrol is important because federal studies show 70 percent of all congestion is caused by traffic crashes or vehicle breakdowns.

The Courtesy Patrol fleet provides assistance to motorists by reducing potential crash situations, relieving traffic congestion, and helping to create safer driving environments. Services are funded by MDOT through a grant from the FHWA and sponsorship by Michigan State Police and SEMCOG.

"I think the courtesy patrol is a great program, because it doesn't take a lot of money to put together and it is so visible and helpful to the motorist," said Mia Silver, MITS Center and program administrator. The patrols travel interstates 75, 94,

First-ever Zilwaukee Bridge Walk adds depth (and height) to sesquicentennial celebration

The Bay Region and Bay City TSC partnered with the city of Zilwaukee, the Michigan State Police and other local law enforcement officials to organize a bridge walk across the southbound I-75 Zilwaukee Bridge. The first-time bridge walk took place on Saturday, June 5, from 8 to 11 a.m., and was part of the city of Zilwaukee's sesquicentennial celebration. Chief Operations Officer Larry Tibbits and Bay Region Engineer Terry Anderson led a group of MDOTers who were among nearly 5,000 walkers across the bridge. Bay City TSC Manager Bob Ranck, the Zilwaukee Bridge Crew, and Region and TSC Traffic & Safety employees were key among those who contributed to the walk's super success.

Director receives top civil rights award from FHWA

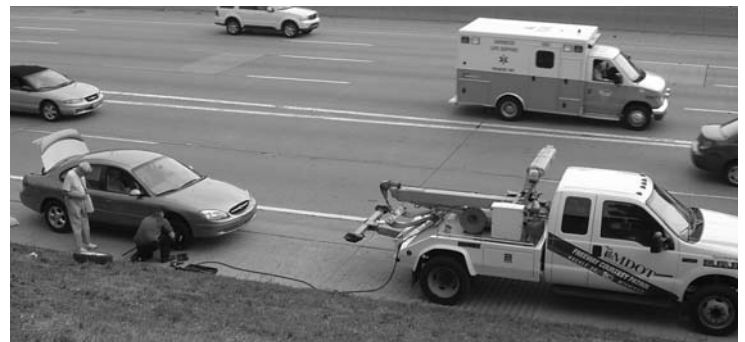
The Federal Highway Administration recently honored State Transportation Director Gloria J. Jeff with its highest civil rights award. Jeff received the A.D. Gaither Leadership Award at the National Transportation Civil Rights Conference in San Diego in September. The award is given once every two years to an individual who has had a significant national impact on affirmative action, equal opportunity, equal employment opportunity and/or in preventing discrimination. "Gloria Jeff is nationally known and respected for her transportation knowledge, which is a great benefit to the department she runs and to the state of Michigan as a whole," said Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm. "This award, however, speaks to her ability to lead by example and to motivate others. I am thrilled to see Director Jeff recognized for mentoring others and creating an open, empowering work environment."



Gloria Jeff

96, 275, 375 and 696, plus the Haggerty Connector, M-8, the Lodge Freeway, M-14 the Southfield Freeway and M-59.

In 2003, SEMCOG estimated the patrol saved 10.3 million hours of delays on Detroit-area freeways, up from 6.9 million hours of delay in 2002. For every dollar spent on the patrol, the benefits realized were worth \$14.40.



The MDOT Freeway Courtesy Patrol helps stranded motorists in southeast Michigan.



Fifteen candles

Adopt-A-Highway celebrates 15 years

MDOT's popular roadside pickup program, Adopt-A-Highway, turned 15 this year. Started in 1990, there have been 15 years of pickups and clean highways, thanks to thousands of volunteer groups who adopt two-mile stretches of highway and clean them three times per year.

An average of 15,000 people participate in any given pickup. There are 2,568 groups involved in 2004, but a miraculous 232 groups have real staying power – they have been with the program since it started!

In September, the 15-year volunteer groups were honored with a special certificate and a special baseball cap. Hats off to you, volunteers! Or, perhaps it is more fitting to say, "Hats *on*...and thank you!"

Program Coordinator Scott Wheeler, Central Maintenance Support Area, also deserves MDOT's thanks – he has been program manager for 15 years. Scott works with the region and TSC coordinators to assure that everything goes as planned.



Familiar sight on the highway: Adopt-A-Highway volunteers clean up Michigan highways three times a year. The program turns 15 this year.

It's all about kids and families at Touch a Truck Day in Lansing

Dozens of curious kids surrounded the MDOT exhibit at the annual Touch a Truck Day at Sharp Park in Delta Township, just outside of Lansing, on Saturday, Aug. 21. You might say it was a touchy, feely thing. This annual event is fun for children of all ages...as well as their parents. MDOT volunteers were coordinated by Mark McKinnon, Grand Ledge Garage, and Terry Dills, Mason Central Repair Facility. This year's volunteers included: Kirk Gorski and Mark Crouch, Grand Ledge Garage; Dean Middlebrook, Williamston Garage; Mark Bott, Traffic and Safety; and Jose Villarreal, OHR. Art Morales, the lead coordinator for five years, needed to take a year off due to knee replacement surgery. This is the fifth year the Grand Ledge Garage has participated in the event, which is sponsored by the Eaton County Parks and Recreation Department.



Newest MDOT invention: Ken Hildebrand and "Bit Boy"

Ken Hildebrand, Grand Rapids Special Crews, is the creator of "Bit Boy" – a self-leveling, hands-free, bit sharpening device for jack hammer bits. Ken's tool reduces the sharpening time by roughly half – an excellent labor cost savings, plus it eliminates the hazard of breathing in metal dust and the danger of sparks.



Ken Hildebrand demonstrates his invention – Bit Boy.

"During the bridge season we have to constantly sharpen jack hammer bits," said Ken. "The two methods used were the bench grinder and hand grinder. While both of these methods work, I really thought there could be a more efficient and safer way to accomplish this task." The result is the newest addition to the MDOT tool box – Bit Boy.

The cost of the unit is relatively inexpensive and quickly recouped by its efficiency. What a great idea – and created by our very own employee! For his effort, Ken earned \$150 from the MDOT Bright Idea award program. Other MDOT garages have duplicated the design, while some have asked Ken to fabricate one for them.



SOME PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEAN MIDDLEBROOK

Little kids enjoying BIG trucks.



Roberta Tisdale

Glad You Asked...

How many employees do we have now and what's the hiring situation at MDOT?

MDOT – like all of state government – continues to operate under a hiring freeze. The freeze requires us to obtain approval to establish, or to fill from outside, state government positions at the

13 level or higher. Since most of MDOT's hiring is below this level, we have not experienced much of an impact from the freeze. Since the 2002 early out, MDOT has reduced its vacancy rate by 60 percent. In November of 2002, MDOT's workforce was 390 below the headcount target. Today, MDOT has approximately 2,800 employees (excluding Summer Youth Corp, student assistants and co-op employees). We're just about 160 employees (approximately 5 percent) below our workforce base target.

What is the status of MDOT's transition from HRMN to MI HR Service Center?

The state's HR Optimization project is moving along as scheduled and currently is undergoing the first of three phases. MDOT will transition to MI HR Service Center during the third phase – the "go live" date is Monday, Nov. 8. After this date, you will contact MI HR Service Center – rather than OHR – for any assistance with your benefits or MI HR Self-Service password. However, OHR will continue to assist employees with labor relations, classifications, vacancy application processing, leaves of absence, workers compensation, payroll processing/adjustments, and related services. MI HR is answering 90 percent of all calls within 11 seconds – and already is getting customer satisfaction ratings of "excellent" on 80 percent in response to those calls. If you have questions, you can access MI HR Self-Service online at www.michigan.gov/selfserve or call 877-766-MIHR (6447) toll-free, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you still have questions about your password, you can e-mail Self-Serv-Support@michigan.gov for user assistance.

Is it true that Open Enrollment – when employees can change insurance options – will be handled solely by computer from now on – without OHR?

The FY 2004-05 Open Enrollment period for state-sponsored group insurance plans took place Aug. 16-31. This was the second year MDOT processed Open Enrollment through Employee Self-Service (now called MI HR Self-Service) and the first year that employees had additional support through the MI HR Service Center. I'm happy to report that the addition of MI HR proved to be very helpful and that next year's Open Enrollment will be handled in the same way.

What is being done to be sure that all MDOT employees can access MI HR and their HR information?

In addition to the MI HR Service Center and MI HR Self-Service, MDOT will be installing approximately 50 additional computers in field locations to increase the total number of computers available to field employees to more than 330.

Workstations are scheduled to be constructed – and the new computers installed – by November. Employee training, along with the assignment of network logins and passwords, also will take place at this time.

How is the ongoing state budget situation going to affect state employees? What will be expected of us next year in the way of furlough days and banked leave time?

Although MDOT does not have an approved budget yet for FY 2004-05, the governor's budget *does* allow for a four percent pay increase – effective Oct. 1 – and does not include continuation of unpaid furlough days. The State of Michigan and the unions representing state employees are scheduled to complete negotiations and plan to have voluntary agreements by Oct. 1, 2004. The continuation of banked leave time will be addressed in these negotiations.

Where can I get information about the new Employee Savings Program?

DMB partnered with Boise Cascade to create a purchasing program offering a 30 percent discount to state employees on all supplies (except office furniture) listed in the 1,000-page Boise catalog. Orders will be shipped free via UPS and delivered directly to your home (office deliveries are not available). Also, DIT and DMB have negotiated some user-friendly contracts for employees to purchase computer and cellular equipment/plans. Visit the DMB Web site for contract details and ordering information at www.michigan.gov/doingbusiness. Click on the Quick Link, "Employee Savings Program."

Employee Savings Program

Check the DMB Web site for information about the following employee savings now available:

- Boise** - save 30 percent on all items (excluding furniture)
- Dell** - save 5-10 percent on your total computer purchase
- Cingular** - save 10 percent on all plans
- Alltel** - save 10 percent off published retail rates for all packages/plans
- Nextel** - save 27 percent on equipment and 10 percent on plans



MDOT family tree

The *Family Tree* column provides news about changes in the MDOT family tree: appointments, retirements, births and, sadly, deaths. News about an employee's or a retiree's passing is sent to us by various methods. Please contact staff if you have news of this type, or if you wish to include news about births or adoptions in your family. E-mail the information via GroupWise to Joan Justema at justemaj@michigan.gov. Welcome to all MDOT new hires and congratulations to all MDOTers who were recently promoted!

Births/Adoptions

Congratulations to all the parents on their new bundles of joy!

Courtney Bates, communications assistant, Communications, and her husband, Andy, became proud first-time parents with the birth of their sweet little girl, Audrey Louise, on June 27, 2004.

Eric Precord, lead worker, Mio Maintenance Garage, North Region, and his wife, Kristen, welcomed a new addition to the family when their third child was born on July 11, 2004. Baby Hayden John has a brother, Alex, 7, and a sister, Allison, 2.

Kirsten Cole, receptionist, OHR, and her husband, Joshua, celebrated the birth of their son, Justin Michael, on July 19, 2004. Justin has an older and wiser sister, Vivian, who is 3.

Dan Wisneski, bridge operator, Bay City, and his wife, Lisa, were tickled pink to become new parents on July 20, 2004, when their daughter, Claire Rose, was born.

Gregg Brunner, cost and scheduling engineer, Davison TSC, and his wife, Jody, were tickled blue to become new parents when their son, Ethan Gregg, was born on July 20, 2004 – the same day as Dan's baby (see above)! (Ed. note: Hey, let's introduce Claire and Ethan when they turn 20!)

Deanne Finch, program analyst, Economic Development and Enhancement, and her husband, Joshua, were very excited to greet their firstborn when the stork arrived Aug. 17. Please welcome their baby girl, Allison Lone, to the world. (And, congratulations to first-time-grandmother Susan Keldsen, Aeronautics.)

Kari Arend, University Region communications representative, and her husband, Todd, became proud first-time parents with the arrival of their daughter, Emma Christine, on Aug. 19.

Don Hunley, engineering technician at the Bay City TSC, and his wife, Julie, had a baby girl on Aug. 30, 2004. Allyson Marie joins her slightly bigger brother, Cameron, who is 3.

Retiring MDOT personnel are not automatically added to the newsletter mailing list. If you're planning on retiring and wish to continue to receive *MDOT Today*, please be sure to contact the Office of Communications at 517-373-2160.

“Things turn out best for the people who make the best out of the way things turn out.”

– Art Linkletter

Deaths

Eustaquio (Rod) Rodriguez, 78, of Charlotte, died Sept. 3, 2003. Born in New Braunfels, Texas, Rod was best known for his music. Throughout the years, Rod played guitar and sang with “The Rod Rodriguez Band,” “Los Embajadores,” and “Trio Los Amigos.” Although Rod worked at the A&E Garage in Lansing, he retired while working at the A&E Garage in Charlotte in 1987. Prior to working at MDOT, he worked for Charlotte Ford dealerships. A World War II veteran, Rod was a member of the Charlotte American Legion, VFW, Eagles Aerie, and Knights of Columbus. He is survived by Bertha, his wife of 49 years; two sons, Joe Rodriguez (MDOT Charlotte Garage), and Ricardo Rodriguez (MDOT University Region office); four daughters, Linda Fox, Delia McGregor (MDOT Performance Excellence Division), Alicia Wilcox, and Rosario Debler; and seven grandchildren.

Donald D. Dell, 77, died April 17, 2004. Don retired from MDOT in 1989 as secretary/treasurer of the International Bridge. Earlier in his career, Don worked on the construction of the Mackinac Bridge while employed at the D.B. Steinman Consulting Firm. Later, in 1960, after living in Virginia for awhile, Don returned to Michigan as assistant resident engineer during construction of the International Bridge. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Jacqueline; three sons, David, William, and Kevin; one daughter, Krista MacArthur; and six grandchildren.

Gerald Marx, 65, died June 7, 2004, after working more than 35 years with MDOT. Gerry, who was the bridge operator supervisor at the Lafayette Bascule Bridge in Bay City since 1987, retired during the last early out in 1997. Gerry worked with the Jaycees and was instrumental in starting the Reese Little League Baseball Program for his son and other children in the area. Gerry served in the U.S. Army from 1957-59. He is survived by his wife, Judy; a son, Scott; two daughters, Sherry (John) Monsees and Shawn Marx; four grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.



Lisa Funk

Lisa Funk, 46, lost a courageous battle with cancer on July 3, 2004. After learning she had maybe three weeks to live, Lisa hung in there for six weeks, bravely making plans and preparing her family for the events to come. Lisa maintained her sense of humor to the last, explaining to a friend that she had selected a pantsuit to wear on that final day because she didn't want to wear

pantyhose for eternity. She sent a goodbye note to friends and family, closing on a typical upbeat note with one of her favorite quotes: “Things turn out best for those who make the best out of the way things turn out.” As one MDOT employee said, “Leave it to Lisa: She not only taught us how to live, she taught us how to die.” Lisa will be greatly missed for she was a respected friend and a valuable employee. Lisa worked for MDOT for more than 24 years, first in Planning, and, most recently, in the Bureau of Multi-Modal Transportation. Since October 2002, Lisa supervised the Program Development Unit. Key among Lisa's responsibilities was leadership of the Michigan Transit Conference. She is survived by her husband, Steve; a daughter, Kelly; and a son, Jason.



Kathy Albright

COURTESY OF FINANCE

Kathy Albright, 53, of Charlotte, died July 7, 2004, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Kathy began her career with the state in 1974, working for the Unemployment Office. Kathy retired from MDOT in the spring of 2000 after working as a cashier in Financial Operations for 15 years. Kathy was an avid MSU fan and did her best to keep the Wolverine/Spartan

rivalry going. She was a hard worker and always eager to help out her coworkers. Kathy's friends know that she was a very special person. Customers and coworkers alike will miss her smiling face and her great sense of humor. Kathy is survived by her husband and best friend of 21 years, Duane; a son, Ronald (Danette) Winans; and two grandchildren. [One last time for Kathy: Go MSU!]



Richard M. Gould

COURTESY OF METRO REGION

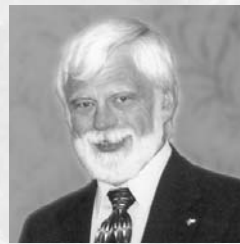
Richard M. Gould, 57, died July 9, 2004, at his home in Berkley. Dick worked at MDOT for 35 years. He started out as an engineer-in-training in 1969, and most recently was a Metro Region maintenance engineer. His many accomplishments include developing the statewide Capital Preventative Maintenance Program and formalizing a region

emergency notification process. In response to Metro Region emergencies, such as high load bridge accidents and vehicle fires, Dick was the first person to arrive – and the last person to leave. He will be missed; co-workers said Dick was one of the most well-liked and respected employees in Metro Region. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Linda; and two sons, Timothy and Donald.

Edward L. Rademacher, 72, of Grand Ledge, died July 16, 2004, surrounded by his wife and five children, following a four-month battle with lung cancer. Ed retired in 1994 as a soils inspector in Lansing, after working at MDOT for 37 years. An avid fisherman and hunter in his free time, Ed enjoyed sharing these interests with his children and grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Susanne; two sons, Michael and Mark; three daughters, Jamie (Clayton) Morton, D'Anne (Bob) Golub, and Julie (Pat) Brown.

Roy Gerald Rohrbacher, 67, of Eaton Rapids, died July 26, 2004. Born in Lansing in 1936, Roy retired from MDOT in 1996, after 35 years of service. Roy worked for the MDOT Overhead Sign Shop when it was located on Logan Street. He was a life member of the North American Hunting Club, Handyman Club of America and the Good Sam Club. Surviving are his wife, Patricia; three daughters, Jody (Ronald) Karl, Lori Randall, and Amy (Glenn) Grimes; 14 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Terry L. Linger, 66, of East Lansing, died July 31, 2004, at his home. Terry retired in 1997 after working 39 years for the state of Michigan, mostly as an advocate of public transportation services to all citizens. Highlights of his career include: being a member of highway surveying crews that set records between Clare and the Mackinac Bridge for work accomplished; the development and enactment of the 1972 transportation legislation that for the first time provided programs and funding for public transportation services; and development and participation in several transportation packages, especially one in 1982 that revised funding for services. Terry also served seven years on the East Lansing Planning Commission. Terry is survived by his wife, Wilma, and her five children; and his two sons, Bruce (Laura), and John (Kathleen).



Norman Kieliszewski

Norman M. Kieliszewski, 54, died Aug. 12, 2004. Since 1997, Norm was the Engineer of the Program/Project Management System (P/PMS), Engineering Support Services Unit, Design Support Area. He worked at MDOT for more than 31 years, beginning in 1968 as a student assistant. Norm, who enjoyed cooking, hosted several cookouts for the unit and brought in some of his creations

for his co-workers to enjoy. He also liked to fish, hunt and tell stories about the big one that got away. He had a good sense of humor and a quick wit. Norm is survived by two daughters, Mary Anne and Lisa; and a son, Michael.

Daniel O'Guin, 50, died Aug. 12, 2004, after a brief battle with cancer. Dan worked at MDOT for nearly 30 years, most recently as a TMW-lead worker at the Fennville Garage, Kalamazoo TSC, in the Southwest Region. Co-workers will remember Dan for being very efficient and open to new ideas. He had a good sense of humor (even during difficult times) and was known for his almost-famous biscuits and gravy. Dan is survived by his wife, Sue; and two sons, Bryan and Christopher. 🐾

Take the Bus

Continued from page 1

communities load their bikes on a BATA bus and then cycle around Traverse City.

"My wife and daughter rode BATA, with their bikes in tow, from Traverse City to Suttons Bay, and then rode the Leelanau trail back to Traverse City," Otwell said. That was a 15-mile bike ride.

"The bike racks have been very well-received by the community," said BATA Executive Director Joe DeKoning. "We want to install them on all of our general public fleet." 🐾

—Contributed by Janet Geissler,
Multi-Modal Transportation Services



Missy Luyk of Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails Inc. loads a bicycle onto the rack on the front of a Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA) bus. BATA has bike racks on about half of its vehicles.

Buses with Bike Racks

- Ann Arbor Transportation Authority
- Bay Area Transit Authority
- Blue Water Area Transit
- Capital Area Transportation Authority
- Interurban Transit Partnership (The Rapid)
- Kalamazoo Metro Transit
- Muskegon Area Transit Authority
- Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART)

The 47th Annual Mackinac Bridge Walk Ran Well



Posing with Gov. Granholm are Gerry Edwards (left), Aviation Services, and Leon Hanks, Executive, who were among the ranks of the runners.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm gives a healthy thumbs-up to northbound passersby as she kicks off the "fun jog" at 7 a.m.

The longest suspension bridge in the Western Hemisphere was the scene once again for the 47th Annual Mackinac Bridge Walk on Monday, Sept. 6, starting at 7 a.m. Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm led off the Labor Day event at a run, followed by 300 pre-qualified runners who were selected from across the state to take part in the first Governor's Council on Physical Fitness jog. Approximately 46,000 walkers followed the "fun jog." All in all, you could say the walk ran well.

"Working in cooperation with the governor's staff, we owe the success of this year's Mackinac Bridge Walk to the extensive organization that goes on behind the scenes by the Mackinac Bridge employees and community volunteers," said Executive Secretary Bob Sweeney, Mackinac Bridge Authority.

Niiiiice work, Team MDOT! 🐾



Editors: Janet W. Foran
Joan H. Justema

Graphic Design: Kris Hart
Graphics Unit

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MDOT Photo Lab staff:
Tim Burke, Jim LeMay, Linda Norris and Bill Phillips

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E-mail: mdottoday@michigan.gov

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